

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 00241 121329Z
ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
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R 121200Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5966
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PINT, PL
SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS ATTACKS ANDRZEJEWSKI

REF: 76 WARSAW 8943, 76 WARSAW 9205, WARSAW 0017

1. SUMMARY. POLISH PRESS ATTACKS ON PROMIENT MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE LEAGUE CONTINUE WITH A BLAST OVER THE WEEK-END AGAINST WRITER JERZY ANDRZEJEWSKI. THE GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED USE OF DEFAMATORY PROPAGANDA IN THE PRESS HAS RESULTED IN A PUBLIC DIALOGUE, WITH WDL REBUTTAL APPEARING IN THE WESTERN MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

2. BOHDAM ROLINSKI SHARPLY ATTACKS WDL MEMBER JERZY ANDRZEJEWSKI IN A ZYCIE WARSZAWY ARTICLE OF (JANUARY 8-9) ENTITLED "IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN A DIAMOND." ROLINSKI EMPLOYES THE NOW FAMILIAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 00241 121329Z

TACTIC OF INSINUATING THAT ANDRZEJEWSKI'S ACTIVITIES CONSTITUTE TREASON WHILE DISPARAGING THEIR IMPORTANCE. OFFICIAL POLISH TOLERANCE OF ANDRZEJEWSKI'S BEHAVIOR IS PICTURED AS REMARKABLE.

3. ROLINSKI ACCUSES ANDRZEJEWSKI OF STRAYING FAR FROM THE IDEALS HE EXPRESSED IN "ASHES AND DIAMONDS." HE CONTINUES

THAT WRITERS CAN CHANGE THEIR PERSPECTIVES RAPIDLY, AND WHEN THEY DO THEY SHOULD BE TREATED WITH UNDERSTANDING, AS LONG AS THEIR IDEAS ARE NEITHER SHABBY NOR RIDICULOUS. ANDRZEJEWSKI'S ARE BOTH, ACCORDING TO ROLINSKI. AT A TIME WHEN SOCIALIST POLAND HAS EARNED INCREASING RESPECT FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WHEN GREATER UNITY FOR THE TASKS AHEAD IS NEEDED, ANDRZEJEWSKI AND HIS FRIENDS SEEK TO FOMENT DISCONTENT AND SIDETRACK POLAND "FROM THE ROAD OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT" TO "THE EPOCH OF BITTER CLASS WAR." THEIR "PROGRAM" IS CHARACTERIZED AS A "MONSTROUS MESS" OF POLITICAL IDEAS, INCLUDING, AMONG OTHERS, "UTOPIA, TROTSKYISM, THE NEWEST ANTI-COMMUNIST AMMUNITION AND A BIT OF ZIONISM."

4. ROLINSKI BERATES ANDRZEJEWSKI FOR TELLING A SWEDISH JOURNALIST THAT THE "ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN" OF 1968 RESULTED IN GREAT LOSSES IN POLAND. THE STATEMENT IS SLANDER, ROLINSKI ASSERTS. THE PEOPLE WHO LEFT POLAND THEN WERE "IDEOLOGICAL ROVERS" LIKE ANDRZEJEWSKI HIMSELF. ROLINSKI SUGGESTS THAT ANDRZEJEWSKI IS MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE FOR THE NOBEL PRIZE. HE CONCLUDES THAT PEOPLE SUCH AS ANDRZEJEWSKI WILL ALWAYS HAVE "REACTIONARY PROTECTORS" IN THE WEST, SUCH AS KULTURA AND RADIO FREE EUROPE. HOWEVER THE NUMBERS OF DISSIDENTS ARE DWINDLING AS HISTORY PASSES THEM BY.

5. ACCORDING TO A UPI REPORT OF JANUARY 10, ANDRZEJEWSKI REPLIED THAT THE ZYCIE WARSZAWY ARTICLE WAS "IMMORAL" BECAUSE HE WAS NOT GIVEN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO REPLY. HE REASSERTED THAT THE WDL HAD NO POLITICAL GOAL AND WAS FORMED SOLELY TO AID WORKERS WHO WERE PERSECUTED FOLLOWING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 00241 121329Z

JUNE PRICE DISTURBANCES.

6. COMMENT. GOVERNMENT PRESS ATTACKS ON DISSIDENTS AND WESTERN PRESS ATTENTION TO EVENTS IN POLAND HAS RESULTED IN A LOPSIDED DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND DISSIDENTS IN POLAND. TO FOREIGN READERS, THE POLISH ARTICLES MUST PROVE SOMEWHAT PUZZLING. TRYBUNA LUDU OF JANUARY 7, FOR EXAMPLE, PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH WRITER EDMUND OSMANCZYK ENTITLED "CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS: THE REPUBLIC OF POLES." OSMANCZYK SOMEWHAT DISJOINTEDLY COMMENTS THAT ARTISTS AND WRITERS HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GOVERN AND THAT THE "POLISH WORKING CLASS NEEDS NO DEFENDERS," CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE WDL.

7. ACCORDING TO A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT HERE, ANDRZEJEWSKI WAS MORE FATIGUED THAN ANGRY WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE ROLINSKI ARTICLE. HE REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED THAT WESTERN PRESS ATTENTION WAS HINDERING THE WDL'S MISSION AND ASKED THE REPORTER TO STRESS THE WDL'S LIMITED, HUMANITARIAN

GOALS. WITH RUMORS OF POSSIBLE DEPORTATION OF JACEK KURON IN
THE AIR, AND THE SUBTLE REVIVAL OF THE "JEWISH QUESTION"
(AT LEAST TWO WDL MEMBERS ARE OF JEWISH BACKGROUND), THE
GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE WAGING A WAR OF NERVES WITH
THE WDL RATHER THAN USING FRONTAL ATTACKS. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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